came in, we were gratified to learn that our hard
push was proving successful in getting more land into
arable cultivation. Some
975,000 more
Achievements acreg were put under the piougk in IQI7

campaign than in 1916. Seeing that at the beginning of 1917 it was estimated that the sowing as yet carried out for the 1917 harvest was at least 15 per cent. below that carried out by the corresponding date for the 1916 harvest, the increase eventually compassed was a notable achievement.

The corn crop was of rather poor yield in England and Wales, but fair in Scotland and Ireland. Potatoes cropped better in all countries than they had done the previous year.

yield of crops

As compared with 1916, the quantities of produce in 1917 were greater by :—

4,928,000 bushels of wheat;
5,120,000 bushels of barley ;
36,700,000 bushels of oats ;
41,813,000 sacks of potatoes.

These figures show that despite inevitable war deficiencies in labour, machinery and fertilisers, a truly remarkable beginning had been made with the task of increasing our home-grown food supplies. In addition, the growing army of allotment holders had also been highly successful with their potato and vegetable plantings.

The achievement was a very substantial relief to our overstrained shipping resources. I can hardly describe the relief the figures brought to anxious

minds who knew that the battle had resolved itself into a struggle of endurance, and that at the end of